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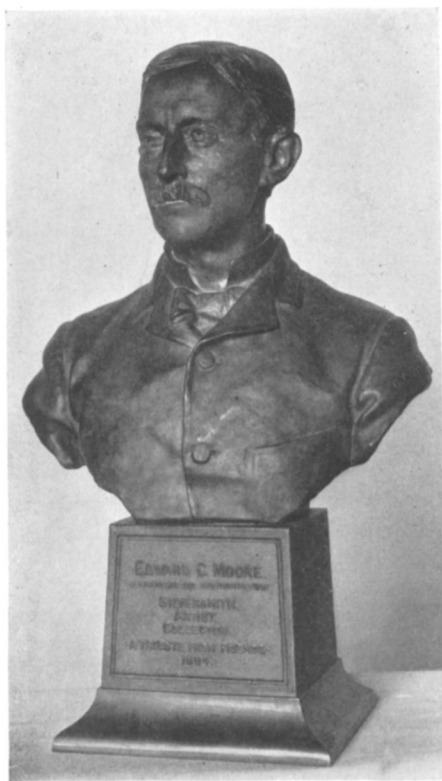
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PERSIAN MOSQUE LAMPS



THE EDWARD C. MOORE
COLLECTION

THE collection of oriental and European pottery, metal and glass known as the Moore Collection, and bequeathed to the Museum in 1891 by the late Edward C.

Moore, is being rearranged and will soon be reopened to the public. It will be found in the same gallery (Floor II, Room 26) as before, but the room has been repainted, and new cases, especially designed, now show the various objects to the fullest advantage. As the collection is a large one, with a wide range of color and material, the question of a suitable background was only solved after careful trial, a grey verging on sage green finally being decided on. The new cases, fitted with glass shelves, afford an increased and more brilliant light, and even those most familiar with this interesting collection, will be surprised at the new beauties to be discovered in it. It is also worth noting that the collection may be more easily and intelligently studied than heretofore, the different classes being grouped separately, the glass especially, instead of its former massing together in one large case, now occupying four central cases.

The eastern part of the room is devoted to Saracenic, Japanese and Chinese metal-work, while the west wall is given over to Greek, Spanish, Persian and Japanese pottery. These two main divisions of the collection, apart from the glass, are divided by the miscellaneous objects such as carvings, lacquers, jewelry, etc. in the cases against the north and south walls.

The collection is especially rich in Saracenic metal-work of the fourteenth century. This is principally true of the vessels, stands, candle-sticks and plateaux of the Mamluk class, made at Cairo. The Mesopotamian or Mosil style, which

antedated the lavish use of the large Arabic inscriptions in the Mamluk work, is also well represented, while Damascus and Venice contribute pieces worthy of attention. Of these latter is a beautiful brass bowl of Syrian, probably Damascus manufacture. The wide, fluted rim terminates in points, the interior and every part of surface on the upper side being sumptuously engraved and inlaid in gold and silver. Other unusual pieces in the Saracenic group are small brass boxes of Cairo twelfth and thirteenth century workmanship, and the large water-pots and plateaux of the fourteenth century displayed in the centre of the case.

The group of Japanese metals includes an interesting lot of sword-guards which fill one panel, several pieces of old *cloissonné* and inlaid bronze and iron, seven unusual iron vases and bowls in natural forms of vines and flowers twined about baskets, and a variety of small objects and ornaments in bronze, brass and silver. In connection with this group are seen the Japanese small swords, which have been hung next to the sword-guards. In close proximity, the case of Chinese metal-work holds several fine specimens of old bronze and iron vases, a large fluted, trumpet-shaped beaker being especially noteworthy.

The first case against the west wall holds Greek terra-cotta vases, those from Attica being the most interesting. Following this group, the Hispano-Moresque platters lead to the very early Persian specimens of pottery, five in number, showing traces of the original brilliant color and glaze beneath the iridescent oxidation. The Persian early lustre, and later, more porcelain-like pieces follow. These are extremely good, among them being two bowls of the early Gombron ware, a creamy white in color, the pierced decoration filled by the glaze,—exceptionally rare specimens and dating from the sixteenth century. Several pieces of the ruby, brown and coppery lustre on dark blue and white grounds, also of the sixteenth century, complete this group.

The succeeding cases contain Japanese

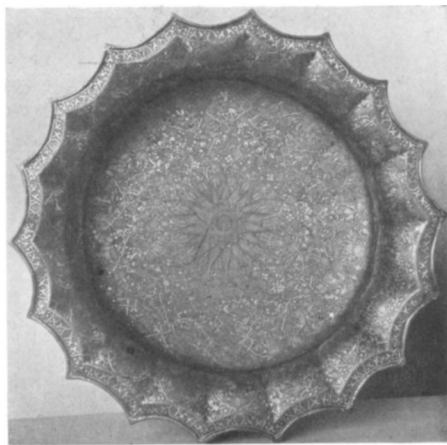
pottery and porcelain, the first case holding the earlier potteries followed by the bowls and tea-jars and the later decorated pieces. The tea-jars form a group in themselves, and several of them are very old and perfect in color and glaze.

The Chinese pottery and porcelain which occupy a case against the north wall contains many good pieces, the group being remarkable for its splendid color as well as the forms of the large specimens.

Among the miscellaneous objects of which mention should be made, is the case of Japanese lacquers. The panel of Japanese *inros* and *netsukes* is also an interesting one. The Persian lacquers in another case, include several book covers.

Among the more valuable things in the collection are the seven mosque lamps which are well shown in one of the central cases, together with a *coupe* or large *tazza* of exceptional merit. These Saracenic pieces date from the fourteenth century and are seen in the same case as the old glass from Arabia and Persia. In another case large Roman pieces are seen, together with other antique specimens of glass from Greece and Cyprus. Venetian pieces fill a third central case, while glass from Spain, Germany, France and China is shown in the last.

C. H.



BRASS BOWL INLAID WITH GOLD AND SILVER—SYRIAN